

PRAIRIE HILL COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 133
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 2011
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President TJ Larsen called the Regular Board of Education meeting of September 27, 2011 to order at 6:00 p.m. with a roll call vote and the following members answered aye to signify their presence: Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant, and Mrs. Stitt. Also in attendance were Mr. Rehl, Superintendent, Mr. Heiar, Principal, and Mr. Finnegan, Principal.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Larsen, Board President.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Barenbaum moved to enter Closed Session at 6:02 p.m. for the purpose of the selection of a person to fill the Board vacancy as mandated by 5ILCS 120/2(c)(3). Mr. Bolin seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

At 6:47 the meeting returned to open session and Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Coomer, and Mrs. Lagow joined the meeting, representing the PHFT.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATION AND AUDIENCE OF VISTORS

Mrs. Larsen read Mr. Richard Cushing's formal letter of resignation from his Board of Education seat.

Mrs. Larsen thanked the three candidates for the vacant Board seat and added her hopes that those not selected will run in 2013. Mr. Bolin moved that Mr. Jason Crouch be seated on the Board. Mrs. Servant seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Crouch recited the Oath of Office and was sworn in by Mrs. Larsen.

Mrs. Larsen shared some of the many notes from students at Prairie Hill thanking the Board for the air conditioners.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Aronson made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2011, the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2011 and July 26, 2011, the August Imprest Fund, September Payment of Bills, September Payroll, the August Treasurer's Report and the August Student Activity Funds.

Mr. Bolin seconded the motion which passed with Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin,

Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Stitt and Mrs. Servant answering aye. Mr. Crouch abstained.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Mr. Finnegan reported:

- The year has gotten off to a great start.
- The air conditioning was installed by Mr. Rehl and Mr. Wood just in time for the major heat wave that struck earlier this month. Students and teachers are very grateful for their increased comfort and ability to focus on their work. Mr. Persekian's Kindergarten classroom still needs air conditioning, but due to the special nature of the room Mr. Finnegan's goal is to have her room cooled before the hot weather returns in spring.
- All students have been screened using easy CBM (curriculum-based measurement). This evaluation tool has helped teachers identify 16 students who would benefit from interventions.
- The Fourth Grade Team reached out to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department who brought a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. An early responder from our area spoke about his work at Ground Zero and answered questions from riveted students. This was presented in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.
- District #133 had 137 children participate in the North Suburban Library's summer reading program. We had the largest number of participants out of all the Hononegah feeder schools! An excellent job promoting the program was done by Mrs. Tesluk at PHS.
- The Barnes and Noble Book Fair and Sonic Fundraiser have netted about \$1000 for the District's library collections. Congratulations to Mrs. Tesluk and all the library volunteers.
- The Jog-a-Thon, run by the P.S.A. and its many volunteers, raised approximately \$24,000! 4480 laps, or 1120 miles, were run by students at PHS alone.
- Mrs. Larsen added that Mr. Finnegan makes a special visit to each child who is celebrating a birthday to read them a story in his office. The student gets to keep the book, which is personalized by Mr. Finnegan. Mrs. Larsen and the Board commended Mr. Finnegan for his initiative.

Mr. Heiar Reported:

- The Fifth graders will be spending September 30th, by the Creek across from PHS. They will have Science, History, and English lessons in nature, followed by a lunch cooked over a fire.
- Many thanks to the Board for approving the C.O.W. (computers on wheels). A wireless router has been installed in the lab so that all 28 computers can have easy internet access in the library.
- Boy's Basketball Try-outs will be held the first week in October.
- The Environmental Club had an organizational meeting which approximately 120 students attended. Mr. Rhines and Mrs. Froman are excited by the great interest level, and expect the club's eventual membership to be closer to 50-60 children.
- Mr. Rehl gave extensive building tours to the 5th graders this week. The students got to see behind the scenes in the kitchen and mechanical rooms, and even got to see the

Superintendent's office. These tours provide students a sense of ownership of WMS, and should ease any lingering discomfort about the building.

- All students at WMS have been evaluated by easy CBM as well, and Mr. Heiar is pleased with the ease of administration and thinks the staff is getting some very useful results.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Mr. Bolin reviewed the Finance meeting.

The Budget Hearing began at: 7:07 p.m.

Mr. Rehl stated that budget had been on display in the district office for 30 days, and that no one had come to look at it. Mrs. Larsen asked if there were any questions from the Board or visitors. Seeing as there were none, Mr. Bolin moved that the District adopt the FY12 Budget as presented. Mr. Barenbaum seconded the motion which passed with Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant and Mrs. Stitt answering aye. Mr. Crouch abstained.

The Budget Hearing Concluded at 7:09 p.m.

EDUCATION

Class sizes were shared with the Board; currently PSH has 411 students, and WMS has 375 students.

Mr. Bolin moved to hire:

Heather McIlwain, assistant track coach

Mike Rhines, intramurals

Kim Hatfield, Math team

Jacqui Thompson and Jessica Levan, Girls Varsity Basketball

Mike Rhines and Cindy Froman, Environmental Club.

Mr. Aronson seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Stitt updated the Board on the progress of the new teacher evaluation process. The forms we are implementing will be in line with the State Board of Education's recommendation in this area.

The Report Card Committee has made many changes to the appearance of our students' performance appraisals. They will look very different and will incorporate information that may be useful to parents in understanding their child's progress and how to help the child move forward.

The Education committee and administrators have been reading *21st Century Skills*. They are finding small steps that the District can take to stay on top of the challenges of preparing students for a 21st century workplace.

POLICY

Policy 5:330, Educational Support Personnel, was put aside for further review.

Mr. Aronson moved to approve the First Reading of the following policies:

- 1:10 School District Legal Status
- 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- 1:30 School District Philosophy
- 2:10 School District Governance
- 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship
- 3:10 Goals and Objectives
- 3:70 Succession of Authority
- 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media: Usage and Conduct

Mrs. Servant seconded the motion which passed with Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant and Mrs. Stitt answering aye. Mr. Crouch abstained.

TRANSPORTATION

No Report this month

BUILDING

Problems with the drainage in the pervious paving at WMS are being investigated.

Mr. Finnegan is working with local contractors to find a solution to the air conditioner placement problem in Mrs. Persekian's room.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Rehl received no FOIA requests this month.

Mrs. Larsen moved that, upon review of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes from years past, none should be moved to Open Minutes. Mr. Bolin seconded the motion which passed with Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant and Mrs. Stitt answering aye. Mr. Crouch abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Heiar has reviewed with the Macktown Indians Football program their plans for care and maintenance of our fields. He feels confident that the small problems that occurred this fall will not recur.

Mr. Aronson requested that each board member review the IASB's "Report to the Membership", which outlines the IASB's positions on several issues facing education in the State. Mr. Aronson is the Board's representative to the IASB and would like to receive Board member input prior to casting his votes.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Bolin moved to enter Closed Session for the purpose of discussing appointment, employment, compensation or dismissal of employees as mandated by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters as mandated by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Mr. Aronson seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Board entered Open Session at 8:02 p.m.

Mr. Bolin moved to approve the following items from the Personnel Report:

1. Recommendation to hire Allen Kraus as a part-time custodian for \$10 per hour.
2. Recommendation to re-hire Melanie Steen, Kim Conley, and Linnea Moist as part-time nurses at Willowbrook for \$18 per hour.
3. Recommendation to hire Forrest Wallace as a Willowbrook maintenance person for four hours per night at \$10 per hour.
4. Recommendation to recognize the termination of Jeff Faith as of September 2, 2011.

Mrs. Servant seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Aronson moved to approve the memorandum of understanding between the PHFT and PHCCSD #133 as discussed in closed session:

The Teachers' Union and the School Board agree to this one time, one employee modification of the 2011/12 negotiated pay schedule.

The School District will pay Amy Mylin every two weeks and divide her yearly salary into a 20 period schedule. This change will include the previously paid checks she has received thus far. The Board recognizes this as a "hardship" request and in a true collaborative spirit wishes to work with the union to resolve this issue on behalf of the employee. However, the Board will not entertain any additional requests for modifications to the pay schedule.

Mr. Bolin seconded the motion which passed with Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant and Mrs. Stitt answering aye. Mr. Crouch abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 p.m., Mr. Bolin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Barenbaum seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Middle School's library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Aronson, Secretary

TJ Larsen, President